THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (e) According to available information, militants belonging to the terrorist outfits Harkat ul-Ansar and Hizo-ui-Mujahideen have holed themselves up in the township of Charar-e-Sharief where the shrine ot the Sufi Saint Hazrat Noor-ud Din-Noorani is situated. The State Government has strengthened the Security arrangements in the vicinity of the township to check any further infiltration and escalation of the situation. There has been intermittent firing between the security forces and the militants. but despite provocation the security frces have maintained the utmost restraint to ensure against any harm to civilian life and property, including any damage *to* the shrine. A large number of people, including women and children, have left the town due to fear and apprehension caused by the presence of militants in the town-However, of late, some families have returned to their homes in the town.

(f) and (g) Government are aware of such reports and of the attempts of Pakistan and its protege groups in the State to use their own acts of violating the sanctity or religious places and trampelling upon the sentiments of the local people, or inability to prevent this, for spreading; dis-information and provoking the people.

There is no seige of the shrine and the residents of the town are able to move in and out without impediments. Government had also offered safe passage to the foreign nationals present in the town upto the LOC if they surrendered, which has not drawn any response. A close watch is being kept on the situation and such further action will be taken as may be required keeping in view the situation, the topography of the area and the sanctity of the shrine.

Damage caused to properties of Kasthimiri Panit migrants

3943. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of houses of Kashmiri Pandit-migrants in the Valley burnt, damaged or looted;

(b) the numbet of cases in which compensation has been paid or insurance claims settled; and

(c) the details of the amount so far ipaid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI); (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Outcome of Jammu Republic Day Bomb-blast investigations

3944. SHRI JAGMOHAN:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAM-
BHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the arrest of a Pakistani terrorist agent, the police authorities in Jammu and Kashmir have resolved the case relating ex plosions at the Republic Day function in the State in which a number of persons were killed and the State Governor amongst others were injur ed on January 26, 1995;

(b) if so, what are the details of the plot unearthed and the persons-Indians and foreigners app.ehended in connection therewith; and

(c) what follow-up steps have so far been taken in connection therew th'

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TPE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.